GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:238
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
PROTECTION OF TRIBAL CULTURE IN GUJARAT
MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes being implemented in Gujarat to protect the tribal culture and make them self-reliant;

(b) the achievements made under the schemes being run by the Government through Non-Governmental Organisations in the State during the last three years in the areas of Health, Employment and Education, district-wise; and

(c) the details of conditions laid down at present which restrict entry of tribals to the jungles and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

(a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides grants to support Tribal Research institutesin various States including Gujarat under Centrally sponsored Scheme of Research & Trainingon 50:50 matching basis between State and Centre to strengthen the efforts of the State Government for protection of tribal culture and other research activities on tribal subjects. During the year 2000-01 an amount of Rs. 20.00 lakh was released to Tribal Research & Training Institute, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad.

(b) During the last three years an amount of Rs. 80,10,177/- was released to 9 no. of NGOs to implement 11 no. of projects in the areas of Health, Employment and Education. The District wise project details being implemented by NGOs, is given in theattached statement.

(c) There are no restrictions, specific to the tribals for entry to the jungles of the country. However, there are general restrictions on entry for all in case of Reserved forests, National Parks, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves as per the provisions of India Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and various State Forest Acts applicable within respective States.Despite there being traditional practices of enjoying the use of various forest products including land, right of way, water etc. apparently settlement of right and concessions during declaration of jungles a s Reserve Forests or applying other restrictive provisions of laws has been inadequate perhaps due to shyness and backwardness of the tribals preventing them from appropriate interaction with the authorities to claim their rights during the process of settlement of rights and concessions as per laid down procedure of law.